

In the Drawings:

Formal drawings are submitted herewith.

Remarks

The Examiner's reconsideration of the application is urged in view of the amendments above and comments which follow.

Turning first to the drawings and the objection of the Examiner to the drawings, appropriate drawings are appended hereto for substitution. It is believed that all is in order.

The indicated allowability of the subject matter of claims 2-5 and 14-17 is gratefully acknowledged. The claims have been revised slightly above, as explained immediately following, but the substance has not been changed. First, claim 6 has been amended so that "the plurality" reads "a plurality", and claim 18 has been made dependent from claim 1, and the terminology of that claim has been corrected to correspond to the language of claim 1. Three new independent claims have been added, claims 19 through 21, to present, in independent form, the subject matter of claims that the Examiner has indicated to be allowable. Claim 19 is a combination of the features of claims 1 and 2, claim 20 is a combination of the features of claims 1 and 5, and claim 21 is a combination of the features of claims 1, 7, 12 and 14.

The Examiner has cited the Schneider publication when rejecting claims 1, 6-13 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated. For the following reasons, it is believed that the Schneider et al reference does not anticipate claim 1 as currently worded.

The reference simply describes an electron microscope in which the voltages and currents for the individual elements of the microscope are digitally controlled by a microprocessor. A user selects an operating parameter to be adjusted by means of a keyboard through which the microprocessor is instructed to alter the output of a selected DAC (corresponding to the chosen parameter). The keyboard is also used to input the desired value of the selected parameter and the microprocessor implements that instruction by controlling the selected DAC accordingly.

The microprocessor may have a memory, as suggested by the Examiner, but there is no indication that the memory stores a number of possible values of any operating parameter, each selected in response to the selection of a value for a different, user controllable operating parameter.

Claim 1 also includes the feature that the value of a further parameter, which has been selected in response to the selection by user of a value for another parameter, may be tuned by the user and the adjusted value of the tune parameter can then be stored in the memory so that

the adjusted value of that parameter (i.e. the one not directly chosen by the user) is selected from the memory if the same value of the user selectable parameter is chosen again at a later time.

Schneider et al contains no suggestion that a tuned value of an operating parameter could be stored, so that the tune value could be subsequently used.

Accordingly, it is submitted that the Schneider et al reference neither discloses nor suggests an instrument having all of the features of claim 1, nor therefor of any of the dependent claims.

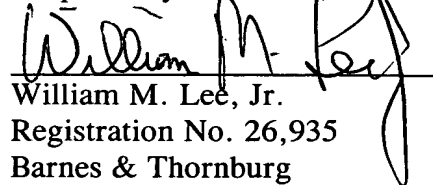
Also submitted herewith is a copy of Form PTO-1449 identifying three U.S. patents for disclosure to the Patent and Trademark Office pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98. Also submitted herewith is the appropriate disclosure fee of \$180.00. The three patents disclose electron optical instruments in which a diaphragm has a plurality of diaphragm openings, each of which can be selected by appropriate electron optical deflection of the electron beam generated by the instrument to cause the beam to travel through the selected openings. The references are therefore directed to related subject matter, but the claims, as cast, are patentable thereover.

This response is being filed during the fifth month following the Examiner's Office Action, and an appropriate Petition for Extension of Time is also submitted herewith.

Given the foregoing and the attachments hereto, it is submitted that this application is now fully in condition for allowance, and the Examiner's further and favorable reconsideration in that regard is urged.

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Respectfully submitted,



William M. Lee, Jr.
Registration No. 26,935
Barnes & Thornburg
P.O. Box 2786
Chicago, Illinois 60690-2786
(312) 214-4800
(312) 759-5646 (fax)